

in respect of the natural products of our country. I do not think the honourable senator opposite has very great hope that the preference in respect of wheat is going to advance substantially the price of that article to Canadian farmers. My observation on the subject would be this. It seems to me, as I said last session, that there cannot be any consistent, dependable increase in wheat values over the general level of the world market; but, even conceding that that proposition is true, I see a great advantage. You may not get a consistent or continuous advantage. Trade levels, prices of commodities, world prices and the prices in different countries vary not only according to geography but according to time, and depend on the interworking of supply and demand the world over. There are times when this advantage will undoubtedly give a higher price to the Canadian farmer, though I do not claim that it can be consistent or continuous. The preference does give him the first entrance, the priority, at the gate of the British Empire with his product. It gives him that over all competitors, and that means an earlier sale and a quicker shipment of his goods. If this country has suffered from one thing more than another in the last four or five years it has been this, that instead of products being sold and shipped promptly they have been held back. This has had a depressing effect on market levels and has been one of the chief local causes of the depression.

But it must be noted that in the letter from the Prime Minister of that time to Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame in 1923, there was put right in the forefront of the requests from Canada, as the one thing that this country wanted first, foremost and above all, a preference in England for the wheat exports of this Dominion. If that was the first, best and dearest objective in 1923, surely it is not well to deride the achievement of that objective in 1932. What was then a pious wish is now an actuality. And I would rather be among those who were participants in the realization than merely with those who were the founders of the hope.

There is, though, a feature of the treaties in respect to farm products that I personally think is of still more value, and that has to do with the elimination of impediments in the way of the transport of our animal products to the British market. The honourable senator from High River (Hon. Mr. Riley) called attention last session to the delay in and the final ineffectiveness of the removal of the embargo against Canadian cattle in

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Great Britain. These difficulties, of which the honourable member rightly complained, have been wholly or almost wholly—and I think wholly—removed by the terms of the treaty. Certainly a tremendous advance has been made along that line. The senator from High River was hopeful that this advance would be of great benefit to us. If he was right in his hope, that hope is not one that maketh the heart sick, because it too is brought into actuality.

Turn to the subject of bacon. Bacon is a product that we of all the nations in the Empire are the best fitted to produce in the highest quality and at the lowest price. The raw materials of the bacon product, as it is produced in modern times, are barley and oats, and Canada is undoubtedly the lowest cost producer of these grains in the world. Our climate is suited to this industry and we are not too far from the main world markets to prevent our laying bacon on those markets at the lowest price. Denmark and Poland, but chiefly Denmark, have monopolized the British market for a long period of years. They have earned their monopoly by a thorough study of the whole science and practice of hog production. In those countries certain standards have to be reached before the goods are allowed to be exported. There must be a dependable supply year after year; even month after month within the year there must never be a failure of supply merely because the price is low. The Danish farmers are properly organized and have lived up to these requirements.

Canada has tried for many years, but so far with very meagre success, to break down that ascendancy of Polish and Danish farmers, and by the instrument of these treaties we now have a real opportunity. I am not going to predict to what extent we shall take advantage of it. It depends on the farmers of this country, in co-operation with our packing industries, what benefit they actually get under the treaties that are now to be enforced. Under these treaties a quota—and a very substantial quota it is—is allotted to the Dominions within the British Empire in the market for bacon; and if we produce the goods, and produce them consistently and of the desired quantity, we shall have a real advantage over our greatest competitors in the best market in the world. We are in a position to defeat those competitors, and it is our fault if we do not. So. There is no other Dominion in the Empire that we need seriously fear in the industry. The others have not the same conditions of production, and the nature of the